

PATENT
S/N: 09/753,998

Docket No. 1232-4670

REMARKS

CLAIM STATUS

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 11-19, 22-25, 27, 30, 33-40, 44-50, 52 and 54 are pending and are rejected. Of these claims, claims 1 and 23 are independent in form.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 23 are amended and claims 11-14, 33-36, 52 and 54 canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 11-14, 33-36, 52 and 54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. (See Office Action, ¶4, pp. 2-3).

Claims 11-14, 33-36, 52 and 54 are herein canceled rendering the rejections as to these claims moot. Applicants request that the rejections as to these claims be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 15-19, 22-25, 27, 30, 37-40 and 44-50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Carbonell et al. (USP 6,163,785) ("Carbonell") in view of Christy (USP 5,884,247). (See Office Action, ¶6, pp. 3-13).

As will be explained in further detail below, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 23, as amended, and the claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, the cited art taken individually or in combination.

According to the present invention as recited in amended apparatus claim 1 and corresponding method claim 23, as previously explained, characters each included in verb, object and auxiliary words are separately input each to be retrieved in different databases. That is, for example, the verb word is retrieved in a database specific for a verb word and similarly, the

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object or auxiliary words. By doing this, as shown in Fig. 13 of the present application, and assuming by way of example the processing of a verb word, it is possible to shorten retrieval time because only the verb database is used to retrieve the verb word. Also because, in this example, all words to be retrieved are verb words and the number of words to be extracted is relatively small, it is possible to limit the range for performing the retrieval.

Further, in the present invention as recited in amended claims 1 and 23, there are provided a verb area, an object area and an auxiliary word area in each of which corresponding words are separately input. This contributes to high speed retrieval because the kind of input word can be easily and quickly identified.

The Examiner asserts that the pending (unamended) claim 1 is unpatentable because Christy discloses databases each corresponding to a verb, an object and an auxiliary word and Carbonell discloses the other elements of the claim. In particular, the Examiner alleges that Carbonell, in column 19 lines 45-47, recites the separate input of words based on the kind of word. (See Office Action, ¶6, p. 4).

However, Applicants respectfully submit that Carbonell is silent on this feature. With reference to column 19, lines 47-63 of Carbonell, it is only described that vocabulary and grammar checks are performed on an ambiguous unconstrained input text. That is, in Carbonell, it is not identified which word among verb, object and auxiliary words the ambiguous text belongs to. Therefore, in Carbonell, even if different databases are separately provided based on the kind of words, all data included in the different databases must be retrieved for the ambiguous input text. According to Carbonell, it is difficult to achieve high speed retrieval.

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On the other hand, Christy discloses classifying a whole dictionary into four classes comprising nominal terms, connectors, descriptors and logical connectors to facilitate natural translation. These words are stored in different databases.

However, Christy is also completely silent on the separate input of words based on the kind of word as in amended claim 1. Specifically, in column 11, lines 50-65 which the examiner points out and column 11, lines 26-38, an input sentence is analyzed with regard to conformance to a preferable sentence structure. This does not mean that a word is input to one of the verb, object or auxiliary areas.

Therefore, since neither Carbonell nor Christy teaches or suggest at least "distinctly displaying a verb area, an object area, and an auxiliary word area in each of which where characters of a word are input" as in amended independent claims 1 and 23, Carbonell and Christy, individually or even in combination, do not provide sufficient teachings or motivation to arrive at the invention as claimed.

Accordingly, for at least the stated reasons, amended claims 1 and 23 are submitted to be patentably distinguishable over Carbonell, taken alone or in combination with the other art of record, including Christy.

Dependent Claims

Applicants traverse the rejections of the dependent claims but have not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicants submit that the dependent claims are also allowable for at least similar reasons as stated for the independent claims from which they depend. Applicants however, reserve the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

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Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 23 as amended, and the claims depending therefrom, are not taught or suggested by, and neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of, and thus patentably distinct over, the art of record, taken individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims as herein presented are allowable over the prior art of record and that the respective rejections be withdrawn. Applicants further submit that the application is hereby placed in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Applicants believe no fee nor extension of time is required for this filing. However, should an extension of time be necessary to render this filing timely, such extension is hereby petitioned, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4670.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: September 7, 2004

By:


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